

From: [Andrea Parker](#)
To: doug@forumfg.com
Cc: [Loney, Natalie](#); [Sabine Aronowsky](#); [Michelle de La Uz](#)
Subject: Re: Next Gowanus Canal CAG Meeting is Tuesday January 25 at 6:30 PM
Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:34:42 PM

Thank you Doug, that message from EPA would be great to hear. I appreciate your work on this, and hope you feel better soon!

--

Andrea Parker
Executive Director
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
The Old American Can Factory
248 3rd Street | Brooklyn, NY 11215
office: 718.541.4378 ext 7002 | cell: 510.421.3720

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On Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 1:23 PM Doug Sarno <doug@forumfg.com> wrote:

Hi, trust us we could not agree more.

I am sorry, I did not know that Theresa Davis, Val Bell and Joanne Brown were present or that they were there in any official capacity or I certainly would have made that space available, I did see a note from Donna in the chat toward the end but by then they were all gone.

I agree that we need to take on this EJ issue in a more deliberate and structural way and perhaps attach that to the overall behavioral dysfunction of the CAG., Behavior continues to decline and the balance of members who want change seems a bit smaller than those who support the dysfunction. The CAG needs an intervention, and there are at least a handful of members who will support that, but we need more than that to pull it off.

Natalie and I have been talking about this for a long time, I see this email and the fact that it was shared so widely as an opportunity. Doug Garbarini and Walter Mugdan were both on the list and so this email has already been raised at the highest levels of the region. What we are hoping to be able to do is actually have EPA tell the CAG directly that this is not ok, and they will not support a CAG that behaves in the way this CAG has been behaving. This would finally give me something to actually work with to plan a path forward and get people to pay attention.

Beyond that I have felt like crap all week I am pretty sure I have Covid so I won't be much good until next week, but I promise you that we are on this and will do all we can to move us to a better place.

thanks

Doug

On Jan 27, 2022, at 11:56 AM, Andrea Parker
<andrea@gowanuscanalconservancy.org> wrote:

This is disgusting. I feel like there needs to be a very clear conversation, with specific examples, of the ways in which public housing residents have been belittled and made to feel unwelcome. Is it possible to create a space with defined rules to discuss this with the full CAG? It is critical that this is not about "educating" public housing residents, but giving them a voice in a process that impacts them.

Thanks for all you are both doing to work on this. I do know that Theresa Davis, Val Bell and Joanne Brown felt slighted that they weren't called on to introduce themselves as the TA reps in the meeting - I hope you can reach out directly to remedy this, so we can continue to support their attendance.

--

Andrea Parker
Executive Director
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
The Old American Can Factory
248 3rd Street | Brooklyn, NY 11215
office: 718.541.4378 ext 7002 | cell: 510.421.3720

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: Next Gowanus Canal CAG Meeting is Tuesday January 25 at 6:30 PM
To: Doug Sarno <doug@forumfg.com>
Cc: [REDACTED], Sabine Aronowsky <Saronowsky@fifthave.org>, Paul Basile <gowanusalliance@gmail.com>, [REDACTED], Brian Carr <Carr.Brian@epa.gov>, Michelle de La Uz <mdelauz@fifthave.org>, [REDACTED], Mike Dulong <mdulong@riverkeeper.org>, Doug Garbarini <Garbarini.Doug@epa.gov>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Richard Lawrence <richard@richardlawrencephoto.com>, [REDACTED], Natalie Loney <loney.natalie@epa.gov>, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Eric McClure <eric@parkslopeneighbors.org>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Amy Motzny
<Amy@gowanuscanalconservancy.org>, Andrea Parker
<andrea@gowanuscanalconservancy.org>, Christine Petro
<christine@gowanuscanalconservancy.org>, Ashley Privett
<privetac@miamioh.edu>, [REDACTED] Chrissy
Remein <cremein@riverkeeper.org>, Walter Sainsbury
<sainsbury.walter@epa.gov>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Christos Tsiamis <tsiamis.christos@epa.gov>, Sue Wolfe
<sue.wolfe@corcoran.com>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Sean Downey
<sdowney@hilltoppublicsolutions.com>, April B. Dubison
<April.Dubison@nationalgrid.com>, Julia Ehrman
<JEhrman@council.nyc.gov>, Pat Evangelista <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>,
Megan Flynn <MFlynn@council.nyc.gov>, Walter Mugdan
<mugdan.walter@epa.gov>, Donna Newton <newtond@nyassembly.gov>,
John Prince <Prince.John@epa.gov>, Joanne Simon
<JoAnne@joannesimon.com>, Ben Solotaire <bsolotaire@council.nyc.gov>,
Terri Thomson <terri@thomsonstrategies.com>, Nydia Velazquez
<Daniel.Wiley@mail.house.gov>

That's fine, I just don't remember anybody making anyone feel uncomfortable without a specific reason for it. I know that we have made DEP representatives feel uncomfortable at times. Can anyone refresh my memory otherwise?

In any case, if we could help educate members of the 'EJ' community, I think that would be in line with our stated purpose.

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Jan 27, 2022 at 11:32 AM Doug Sarno <doug@forumfg.com> wrote:
Hi all, I strongly support the notion that the CAG needs to do more to increase diversity, and as Natalie pointed out the EPA is also working hard on helping to bring that about and would welcome all efforts.

Just so that everyone understands, Bev Watkins is the person who spoke to the EJ issues and is the Alternate member on the CAG for the Red Hook West Tenants Association and was attending the CAG meeting Tuesday in that capacity. She is a CAG member. One of the main points she made was that EJ representatives were often made to feel unwelcome to the CAG. I hope everyone can pause a moment and make an effort toward both Bev and Karen Blondel who is the main member from Red Hook West TA to prove that notion wrong. The CAG has always been a platform where people speak their truth, and my experience has been that none of the members have ever been reluctant to do so.

thanks,
Doug

On Jan 27, 2022, at 10:41 AM, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi - This is [REDACTED], member at large who runs two Red Hook businesses.

I am writing to say that I was a little surprised at the reaction many of us had to a white consultant who came to the CAG meeting the other day representing the Red Hook West Tenant Association. Someone who as far as I could tell is not a resident there. And who meant to shame us by not having many participants who were NYCHA residents.

I and many others will recall that we have had NYCHA participation in the past, but we cannot force people to attend. Attendance is voluntary, although expected for dedicated members.

It is true that we have thought about having occasional meetings in NYCHA facilities, but in the end, as long as we were meeting in person, we kept it at the one location.

Instead of feeling shame and guilt because of the attacks of a white consultant, I feel a better and constructive response would be perhaps to see if we could try and generate future interest in the CAG from the NYCHA community by doing something like having some internships for young NYCHA residents to learn about what we do, and how meetings work, which would help them with their resumes, and help us in our mission of community participation and communication. Let the Tenant Associations nominate some candidates.

On Wed, Jan 19, 2022 at 10:08 AM Doug Sarno

<doug@forumfg.com> wrote:

Hi all, please see draft agenda and calendar invite attached.

See you next week,
Doug

Doug Sarno
Gowanus Canal CAG Facilitator
202-596-2660 office
703-927-6265 cell
doug@forumfg.com